

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1       1. A computer-implemented method of allocating digital content subscription  
2 revenue, the method comprising:  
3           receiving usage information relating to usage of digital content in a digital content  
4           aggregation;  
5           identifying a coefficient relating to a subset of digital works in the digital content  
6           aggregation; and  
7           generating a revenue allocation for the digital content based on the coefficient and  
8           the usage information.
- 1       2. The method of claim 1, wherein the coefficient is derived from a measure of usage  
2 for digital content calculated using usage information from a plurality of digital service  
3 providers.
- 1       3. The method of claim 1, wherein the coefficient comprises a preset value  
2 corresponding to a subjective measure of marketability for the digital content.
- 1       4. The method of claim 3, wherein the coefficient corresponds to an author of digital  
2 content.
- 1       5. The method of claim 4, wherein identifying the coefficient comprises retrieving  
2 the coefficient from a contract data repository.
- 1       6. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the coefficient comprises identifying a  
2 plurality of conditioning coefficients, each comprising a preset value.
- 1       7. The method of claim 6, wherein the conditioning coefficients correspond to an  
2 author of digital content.

1       8. The method of claim 7, wherein one or more of the preset values indicates that a  
2 particular conditioning coefficient does not apply and is not to be used in generating the  
3 revenue allocation.

1       9. The method of claim 8, wherein identifying the conditioning coefficients  
2 comprises retrieving the conditioning coefficients from a central data repository to enable  
3 continuous updates to revenue allocation models.

1       10. The method of claim 7, wherein generating the revenue allocation comprises:  
2       averaging the preset values for each of a plurality of digital works in the digital  
3       content aggregation to create a composite conditioning coefficient for each  
4       of the digital works; and  
5       multiplying the composite conditioning coefficient by the usage information.

1       11. The method of claim 10, wherein generating the revenue allocation further  
2 comprises normalizing data during multiplication to create a royalty percentage of  
3 subscription revenue for each digital work used in a given period.

1       12. The method of claim 10, wherein generating the revenue allocation further  
2 comprises assigning a weight to each conditioning coefficient before the averaging.

1       13. The method of claim 10, wherein the conditioning coefficients comprise at least  
2 one of the following:

- 3       number of top ten songs for an artist;
- 4       number of platinum records for the artist;
- 5       number of years the artist has been with a label;
- 6       number of records produced by the artist; and
- 7       a popularity ranking for the artist.

1        14. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving digital asset metadata from a  
2        digital asset management system to facilitate assigning of digital content aggregations and  
3        the generating of the revenue allocation.

1        15. A data processing system for allocating digital content subscription revenue, the  
2        system comprising:

3            a processor;  
4            an input/output system;  
5            a database; and  
6            a revenue conditioning server configured to calculate revenue allocations for  
7            digital content in an aggregation of digital content by allocating earned  
8            revenue for the aggregation as a whole based upon actual usage of the  
9            digital content and a conditioning coefficient.

1        16. The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the input/output system  
2        comprises a network interface, a serial port and a keyboard.

1        17. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the database comprises a  
2        submission database, a subscription agreement and conditioning coefficient database, and  
3        a server database.

1        18. The data processing system of claim 17, further comprising a network server  
2        configured to present a graphical user interface for receiving submissions and managing  
3        the subscription agreement and conditioning coefficient database.

1        19. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the revenue conditioning server  
2        comprises data exchange software capable of translating output data into a destination-  
3        specific format.

1        20. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the revenue conditioning server  
2        comprises a back-end server having document routing, mapping and transformation,

3 transaction logging, subscriber management, security certification, and workflow  
4 orchestration elements.

1 21. A data processing system for allocating digital content subscription revenue, the  
2 system comprising:

3 means for processing data;  
4 means for storing data on a storage medium;  
5 means for initializing the storage medium;  
6 first means for receiving digital content usage data;  
7 second means for receiving one or more conditioning coefficients relating to  
8 author-specific valuations of digital content;  
9 third means for receiving earned subscription revenue data;  
10 means for calculating revenue allocations per digital asset, wherein the revenue  
11 allocations vary with amount of usage of each digital asset in a given time  
12 period, and wherein the revenue allocations vary with the one or more  
13 conditioning coefficients; and  
14 means for transmitting the revenue allocations per digital asset.

1 22. The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the means for calculating  
2 comprises a software component of a revenue conditioning server.

1 23. The data processing system of claim 22, wherein the means for storing comprises  
2 a relational database.

1 24. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the first, second and third means  
2 for receiving comprise software modules in a computer network interface program.

1 25. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the revenue conditioning server  
2 comprises data exchange software capable of translating output data into a destination-  
3 specific format.

1       26. The data processing system of claim 25, wherein the revenue conditioning server  
2       comprises a back-end server having document routing, mapping and transformation,  
3       transaction logging, subscriber management, security certification, and workflow  
4       orchestration elements.

1       27. The data processing system of claim 21, further comprising:  
2       means for receiving digital asset metadata; and  
3       means for transmitting cost data for digital assets to a digital server provider,  
4       wherein the cost data includes cost information per asset.

1       28. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon one or more sequences of  
2       instructions for causing one or more machines to perform operations comprising:  
3       receiving usage information relating to usage of digital content in a digital content  
4       aggregation;  
5       identifying a coefficient relating to a subset of digital works in the digital content  
6       aggregation; and  
7       generating a revenue allocation for the digital content based on the coefficient and  
8       the usage information.

1       29. The machine-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the coefficient is derived  
2       from a measure of usage for digital content calculated using usage information from a  
3       plurality of digital service providers.

1       30. The machine-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the coefficient corresponds to  
2       an author of digital content.

1       31. The machine-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the coefficient comprises a  
2       preset value corresponding to a subjective measure of marketability for the digital  
3       content.

1        32. The machine-readable medium of claim 31, wherein identifying the coefficient  
2 comprises retrieving the coefficient from a contract data repository.

1        33. The machine-readable medium of claim 30, wherein identifying the coefficient  
2 comprises identifying a plurality of conditioning coefficients, each comprising a preset  
3 value.

1        34. The machine-readable medium of claim 33, wherein at least one of the preset  
2 values indicates that a particular conditioning coefficient does not apply and is not to be  
3 used in generating the revenue allocation.

1        35. The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein generating the revenue  
2 allocation comprises:  
3            averaging the preset values for each of a plurality of digital works in the digital  
4            content aggregation to create a composite conditioning coefficient for each  
5            of the plurality of digital works; and  
6            multiplying the composite conditioning coefficient by the usage information.

1        36. The machine-readable medium of claim 35, wherein generating the revenue  
2 allocation further comprises normalizing data in multiplication to create a royalty  
3 percentage of subscription revenue for each digital work used in a given period.

1        37. The machine-readable medium of claim 35, wherein generating the revenue  
2 allocation further comprises assigning a weight to each conditioning coefficient before  
3 the averaging.

1        38. The machine-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the conditioning coefficients  
2 comprise at least one of the following:

3            number of top ten songs for an artist;  
4            number of platinum records for the artist;

- 5           number of years the artist has been with a label;
- 6           number of records produced by the artist; and
- 7           a popularity ranking for the artist.

- 1           39. The machine-readable medium of claim 33, wherein identifying the plurality of
- 2           conditioning coefficients comprises retrieving the conditioning coefficients from a central
- 3           data repository.